GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:66
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
BIRD FLU
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outbreak of the bird flu disease has been reported in some States in the country recently;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons thereof indicating the number of districts affected by it;

(c) the losses suffered and compensation provided/proposed to be provided to the poultry farmers affected by this outbreak; and

(d) the reasons for delay in detection of the outbreak alongwith the action taken against those responsible for the lapse and the remedial action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.66 TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD MARCH, 2008.

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The recent outbreak of Avian Influenza (bird flu) was initially confirmed in some areas of Birbhum and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal. Subsequently, some areas in 11 other districts of West Bengal, namely Murshidabad, Burdwan, South-24 Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, Coochbehar, Malda, Paschim Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia were also found to be infected with the disease. The reason for occurrence of bird flu could be one of the following:

(i) bird to bird contact in border areas;

(ii) smuggling of infected birds;

(iii) Scavenger, wild and migratory birds;

It is not feasible to reach a definite conclusion on actual source of infection.

(c): The poultry farmers affected due to culling of birds as part of control and containment operations against bird flu are to be given compensation at prescribed rates. As per information received from the Government of West Bengal, funds to the tune of Rs.1000.17 lakh have so far been paid as compensation to the affected families up to 26th February 2008. Further, Government of West Bengal has decided to grant an interim relief @ Rs.500/- per family. A total of 3,22,109 households have so far been covered and paid an amount of Rs.16,10,54,500/- and process of distribution of interim relief to other affected families is underway. A relief package for affected families is also contemplated.

(d): The report of unusual mortality in Birbhum and Dakshin Dinajpur districts of West Bengal was received from the State Government in the evening of 11th January, 2008, though as per available information unusual mortality had started taking place in the first week of January, 2008. The Government of West Bengal was advised to carry out strict surveillance, report unusual mortality within 24 hours of its occurrence and draw samples on a regular basis as prescribed in the 'Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' circulated to all the State Governments in November, 2006. All other states have also been advised for maintaining strict surveillance and to take all preparatory measures as laid down in the Action Plan.